

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Since 1970, the President of the United States has recognized January as National Blood Donor Month in order to highlight the importance of giving the gift of life through the donation of blood; and,

*Whereas*, The theme, "Give Blood...the Gift of Life," remains constant, just as the need for blood does, and January is traditionally a time when it is difficult to recruit blood donors; and,

*Whereas*, Every three seconds someone needs blood due to auto and other accidents, surgery, and numerous medical treatments, and each day patients across the country receive approximately 38,000 units of blood; and,

*Whereas*, An estimated eight million people donate blood in the United States each year, but many more donors are needed; and,

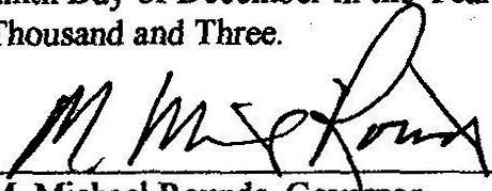
*Whereas*, In South Dakota, there is a need for 130 units of blood per day for the protection of patients, and there is a need for additional healthy, regular volunteer donors to join the ranks of those who already give of themselves so generously:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 2004 as

### *VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONOR MONTH*

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to pay tribute to those among us who donate regularly, and encourage all civic and service organizations and businesses, if they have not already done so, to form blood donor groups to provide blood for others.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

